

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18 and 19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,204,821) in view of Andrade et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0109950 A1); and claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Inui and Andrade, and further in view of Nam (U.S. Patent No. 6,141,598). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The cancellation of claims 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 renders their rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 4-9, 12-17 and 20-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Also, neither Inui, Andrade nor Nam, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a parts procurement system or method that includes at least parts ordering means and correction means for correcting a virtual production line prepared by a virtual production line preparation means, wherein the parts ordering means places a parts order after calculating the parts ordering timing based on the corrected virtual production line, as recited in independent claims 2, 10 and 18.

The Office Action admits that Inui and Andrade failed to disclose the limitations of claims 2, 10 and 18 (Office Action, page 4, lines 4-6).

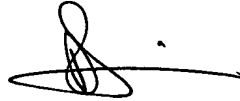
Nam teaches a vehicle assembly line control system and method in which a production plan for a final assembly process is established first and a production plan for a paint process is set up based on the production plan (Abstract). Moreover, Nam teaches that the production management control system 200 (Fig. 3) transmits information related to the overall print production process such that the supply condition for parts and materials can be checked (col. 8, lines 47-51). Hence, there is no correction of the production line in Nam, and the ordering timing is not based on a correction. Accordingly, Nam does not calculate the parts ordering time based on a corrected virtual production line, but instead merely transmits information so that the supply conditions can be checked. Accordingly, Nam fails to cure deficiencies of Inui and Andrade in disclosing or rendering obvious the features of independent claims 2, 10 and 18. As such, any combination of Inui, Andrade and Nam, would not have resulted in the claimed invention, and any resulting device of such combination would not provide a parts procurement system and method that allows proper parts procurement even for parts with long delivery lead times.

Because a combination of Inui, Andrade and Nam would not arrive at the claimed invention, independent claims 2, 10 and 18, and their dependent claims, are patentable over a combination of Andrade, Inui and Nam. As such, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2, 3, 10, 11, 18 and 19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:TMN/amw

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 15, 2005

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